

Montana Post * Volume 44, Number 1 * Spring 2006

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From the Acting Director

Mark Baumler

One of the things I take great pride in as acting director is how hard the staff has worked to keep the Society operating efficiently during this interim period. As this newsletter indicates, we continue to be busy in all aspects of our operations—from preservation to public programming, exhibits to education, and beyond. As someone recently reminded me: *history is being made every day*. You can rest assured that the Society's staff is up to the challenge.

Meanwhile, our Board of Trustees is also working hard to hire a new director who will have the ability to take the Montana Historical Society into the future. We received thirty-six applications for the position from both in and out of state, and the quality of the applications exceeded our expectations. As I write, the screening process is ongoing to develop a final list of candidates. The Trustees plan to interview three finalists in Helena by the end of March or early April when the staff will also have the opportunity to meet the candidates and provide comment before the final decision is made. These are exciting times!

In the short time I've served as the interim director, I've become involved in a number of projects. One I wish to highlight is the Lewis and Clark Senate Art Project. As many of you know, the Montana Historical Society led a committee of present and past senators and members of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission in the selection of nationally known artist Eugene Daub to create a 16.5-by-8-foot bronze bas relief of a Lewis and Clark river scene to be hung in the Senate Chamber. This piece will not only be a dramatic addition to the Capitol (the "icing on the cake" of the recent restoration as former First Lady Betty Babcock describes it), but also a legacy to the Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration.

To pay for the project the Montana Historical Society is offering seventy-five numbered limited edition replicas of the bas relief. The 29-by-14-inch bronzes cost \$3,500 each. If you would like to invest in a replica for your office or home, I encourage you to act quickly; twenty-seven of them have already sold. It is a unique way to own a piece of history in the making while also showing your support for Montana and its heritage. Visit the Montana Historical Society homepage (www.montanahistoricalsociety.org) to see the artwork or call us at 406-444-2694 or 1-800-243-9900 for more information. Thank you for your continued support of the Montana Historical Society.

Society Awarded Preserve America Grant

The Montana Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office recently received \$150,000 for a Montana Rural Heritage Experience project. The Society is one of the first grant recipients of the national Preserve America program, supported by First Lady Laura Bush.

The grant will be used to collaborate with local Preserve America communities across the state and to support regional projects, including events, signage, education and interpretation, tourism trails, and

development of business and marketing plans. Some of the money also will be used for heritage publications including a new book tentatively titled "Barns of Big Sky Country."

Society SHPO Grant Manager Melisa Kaiser Synness collaborated with other Society staff members, the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) as well as people from Montana's Preserve America communities to create the proposal. She and Chere Justo, executive director of MPA, went to Washington in early March to receive the award from Mrs. Bush.

Details will be made available shortly on how communities can apply for money for local projects or to become Preserve America communities. For more details contact mkaisersynness@mt.gov.



Grant Manager Melisa Kaiser-Synness accepting the Preserve America certificate from First Lady Laura Bush and then-Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton.

Cameron Comes Home

The widely acclaimed exhibit, *Photographing Montana, 1894-1928: The World of Evelyn Cameron* returned to the Society on March 16, 2006. Produced by the Society in 1990, the exhibit has been touring the state and the nation since that time. It is being reinstalled in the Reflections Gallery as a result of renewed enthusiasm for Cameron's work, which was sparked by the Montana PBS documentary *Evelyn Cameron: Pictures from a Worthy Life*, which premiered last fall.

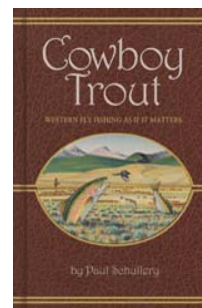


Self-portrait of Evelyn Cameron in her vegetable garden, undated. MHS Photograph Archives

In 1890 Evelyn Jephson Cameron, an Englishwoman, established a ranch near Terry, Montana, with her naturalist husband Ewen. For the next thirty years Evelyn took over fifteen hundred photographs of eastern Montana, including common and extraordinary landscapes, ranch characters, neighboring farmers, and Montana wildlife. The exhibit features forty-seven photographs—accompanied by quotes from Cameron's extensive diaries—and original artifacts including Evelyn's favorite camera.

New Book from MHS Press

Renowned fly-fishing historian Paul Schullery is the author of the Montana Historical Society Press's spring release, *Cowboy Trout: Western Fly Fishing As If It Matters*. The author or editor of more than sixty books, Schullery uses *Cowboy Trout* to chronicle many great moments in western fly fishing, from pioneer anglers casting the first flies on wilderness streams to the unexpected modern emergence of fly fishing as a political, commercial, and even spiritual presence in the lives of many westerners. Schullery celebrates some of western angling's most unforgettable experiences and influential characters while arguing persuasively that fly fishing is a powerful element of western culture. *Cowboy Trout* will be available in May at bookstores, at the MHS Museum Store by calling 1-800-243-9900, or online at <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.com/departments/store/default.asp>



Obituary Index Now On-Line

The Montana Historical Society Research Center's catalog of approximately 20,000 obituaries can now be searched on-line through the Montana State Library Network.

Volunteers Diane Myrah and Lucille Balfour spent the last year transferring information from the library card file into the state library database. The project could not have been accomplished without their hard work.

Researchers can access this gold mine of information, through the State Library website, <http://montanalibraries.org> by selecting the menu bar "For Library Users," and then by selecting "Newspaper Index." A search screen will appear in which to type the last name. Performing a keyword search will bring up a list of newspaper references from the 1860s through 2000. This is just an index; it

does not provide the full text. However, all of the obituaries can be found at the Research Center, which has the largest collection of Montana newspapers in the world. Research staff is happy to help patrons who visit the Society's reference room in Helena. Those who can't make it to Helena can either order newspaper microfilm through interlibrary loan at their local libraries or contact the Research Center's reference staff to locate and copy obituaries for a fee.

MHS's Traveling Exhibits Traverse the State—and Beyond

A new exhibit will join the five Montana Historical Society exhibits that travel to small museums, libraries, historic house museums, galleries, and sometimes malls and fairs, both in Montana and out of state. Prompted by the Smithsonian's *Key Ingredients: America by Food* (first on display in Butte, May 2006), *Montana by Food: A Taste of the Past* will serve up vintage Montana photos and recipes. Also traveling the state is *Hope in Hard Times*, an exhibit based on the Farm Security Administration photographs of Montana between 1936 and 1942. Widely circulated and appreciated in Montana since spring 2002, the exhibit will travel to the Polson Flathead Historical Museum for the summer months.

Documenting the Corps of Discovery will reach new audiences this spring and summer: first, at the Newnan Coweta Historical Society in Newnan, Georgia, and then at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri. It returns home to Montana this fall for bookings at the Mansfield Health Education Center and at MetraPark, both in Billings.

A list of the Society's exhibits and booking information is available on the Society's website montanahistoricalsociety.org or by contacting Education Outreach Coordinator Julie Saylor at 406-444-4789.

History Happenings

The Montana Committee for the Humanities recently awarded the Montana Historical Society Press a \$6,000 grant to publish Dennis Swibold's forthcoming book ***Copper Chorus: Mining, Politics, and the Montana Press, 1889–1959***. Due out next fall, *Copper Chorus* examines the Anaconda Company's control over many of Montana's major newspapers and provides a dramatic look at the intersection between corporate power and the media.

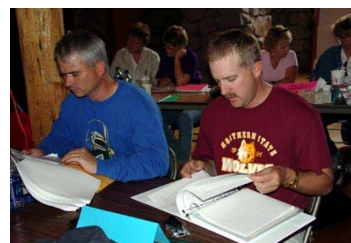
The Montana Historical Society Photograph Archives' **Power Family Photograph Collection** will become more accessible to researchers thanks to a generous donation from the Whitney Elizabeth MacMillan Foundation. Funds from the foundation have been used to contract Jennifer Jeffries Thompson, an independent historical project consultant, to organize and process the collection, which includes 1,298 photographic images. The pictures document the Power's family life and their business, political, and social activities from 1868 to 1950. At least 100 photographs visually record the Power agricultural operations, including the PN Ranch in the Judith River area. After she has completed processing the collection, Thompson will update the collection's inventory so that information about the photographs can be accessed online via the Northwest Digital Archives.

The Charlie Russell Honeymoon Cabin in Cascade, the Donovan-Mayer House in Helena, the Charles Boles House in Kalispell, and the Shelby Town Hall were all recently listed in the **National Register of Historic Preservation**. Listing in the register recognizes the properties' significance to the history and architectural fabric of Montana.

Sunday, June 25, 2006, is the date of the annual **Secret Garden Tour**, sponsored by the Original Governor's Mansion Restoration Society to raise money for the Original Governor's Mansion in Helena. The tour will start at 304 N. Ewing, where participants will be able to enjoy a self-guided tour of the mansion, a garden marketplace, musical entertainment, and lunch on the mansion lawn. Ticket holders will also be provided maps to six spectacular private gardens throughout Helena. Festivities begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults in advance; \$12 at the Mansion on tour day (lunch additional). For more information contact 406-444-4710.

The Society's **Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler** has stepped up her outreach efforts. Recent projects have included partnering with the Montana Heritage Commission to produce a script for a Nevada City audio tour and helping students in the Helena middle schools research historic buildings.

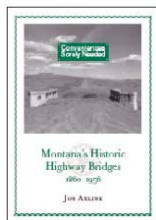
Teachers interested in place-based learning are invited to attend the Montana Heritage Project's June 19-20 **Summer Conference on Place-Based Learning** on the campus of Montana Tech in Butte. This extraordinary gathering will offer ideas for engaging high school students in authentic studies of culture and nature. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from experienced teachers and historical and educational leaders. Graduate and OPI renewal credits are available. Detailed information and online registration forms are available at <http://www.montanaheritageproject.org/index.php/institute>.



Montana Heritage Project teachers Jeff Gruber (left, Libby High School) and Phil Leonardi (Corvallis High School) at the 2005 Summer Institute for Project teachers.

The volunteer group, the **Friends of the Society**, make much of the work of the Society possible. Among other projects, members of the Friends have been busy typing fifty oral histories to become word-searchable in May 2006. We look forward to honoring volunteers on this and other projects at the Annual Spring Recognition luncheon in April as well as to the Friends' annual spring history tour, which this year will be to Phillipsburg in May. If you are interested in joining the Friends, contact Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553.

Society staff and members of the Friends of the Society mourn the death of long-time volunteer **Jane Addy** in Billings on February 6. Addy—an avid gardener and quilter—volunteered in the museum program for over twenty years helping to catalog collections and perform a variety of other textile-related projects.



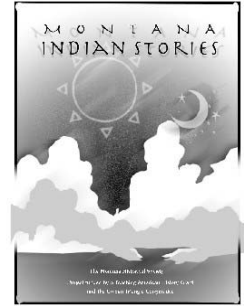
Since publication of ***Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges, 1860-1956*** by the Montana Historical Society Press, author Jon Axline has been traveling the state talking about historic bridges and signing copies of the 178-page book. Future talks include one at the Great Falls Public Library on April 20, the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, and the Headwaters Museum in Three Forks (dates and times to be announced).

Two Research Center staff recently received promotions: **Brian Shovers**, the Society's new library manager, and **Jodie Foley**, now state archivist. Shovers, who has been with the Society as a reference historian since 1993, holds masters degrees in both library science and history. Originally from Wisconsin, he has also worked as a manuscripts cataloger at Temple University in Philadelphia and an architectural historian in Butte. He can be reached at 406-444-1988 or bshovers@mt.gov. Foley has been with the Society as a member of the archives staff since 1990 and has been the Society's oral historian since 1994. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Montana in Missoula. Before coming to the Society, Foley worked in the K. Ross Toole Archives at the University of Montana. She can be reached at 406-444-6779 or jfoley@mt.gov.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office and Montana Preservation Alliance will host the **fourth annual statewide Preservation Workshop**, June 24-26, 2006, in Deer Lodge. The conference will kick off with an evening campfire reception at Grant-Kohrs Ranch and continue on Sunday and Monday with

sessions on many preservation-related topics, including "Finding Funding for Preservation Projects," "Handicapped Accessibility for Historic Buildings," "Heritage Tourism," and "The Fortieth Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act." For more information contact Rolene Schliesman, 406-444-7742 or rschliesman@mt.gov.

Thanks to grant funding from Teaching American History and the Golden Triangle Consortium, educators and their students will be able to borrow a new footlocker: **Montana Indian Stories Lit Kit**. This footlocker will travel to schools with class sets of books featuring Montana Indian stories (initially collected in 1972 as part of the Indian Reading Series and recently reprinted by the Montana Historical Society Press) and ten animal puppets. Reinforcing the age-old purposes of stories—to teach lessons and to entertain—this collection provides teaching-of-reading support for Montana educators while increasing awareness of Montana tribes through story. Out of respect for the customs of many Montana Indian people, this footlocker will only be available in the winter months, traditional storytelling time.



Montana Heritage Project teachers gathered at the Society February 6-7, 2006, for their annual Winter Summit. This mid-year gathering affords teachers time to conduct research, compare notes, and prepare for the April Youth Heritage Festival. The Research Center staff provided special archival training for school librarians who accompanied their teachers to the Summit meeting. Attached to the Society and funded by the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, the project currently works with schools in fifteen Montana communities.

Interested in becoming a Montana Heritage Project teacher? Montana high school teachers with a passion for their communities and for engaging students in work that contributes to our understanding of Montana are invited to apply to become Heritage Project Affiliates. Applications are due April 15. Interested teachers can learn more at <http://www.edheritage.org/affiliates/AffiliatesHome.htm>, or by contacting Marcella Sherfy, 406-444-1759 or msherfy@mt.gov.

Thirteen twentieth-century Montana history scholars and twenty Montana history and English educators and librarians will participate in a summer institute June 26-28 in Helena to explore the Society's NEH-funded DVD project, **Montana Mosaic: 20th-Century People and Events**, and its companion website. MHS will distribute the DVD to all Montana middle and high schools by fall 2006. Round-table discussions, lectures, question and answer periods, and discussion of the practicalities of content application will take place during the course of the institute. For more information on the institute or on the DVD project, contact Education Officer Linda Wruck at 406-444-4794 or lwruck@mt.gov.

Montana The Magazine of Western History announces a call for papers for the annual **Merrill G. Burlingame–K. Ross Toole competition**. Named in honor of two of Montana's most influential historians, this annual competition recognizes the best article-length manuscript written by an undergraduate or graduate student on any western history topic. The deadline for manuscript submission is May 31, 2006. All entries should be emailed to cattebery@mt.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.com/pub/magazine/btaward.asp>



The spring issue of **Montana The Magazine of Western History** features articles about Mormons in Montana, a new look at *The Virginian*, Brigadier General George Crook's "Horse Meat March," and the work of Forest Service photographer K. D. Swan. *Montana* is distributed on newsstands across the state, or call 1-800-243-9900 to order a subscription.

The Montana Historical Society's **Thirty-third Annual History Conference, Our Place in the West: Views from the Yellowstone River Valley**, will be held at the Sheraton in downtown Billings, September 28-30, 2006. The conference will include workshops, tours, sessions, and field trips focused on education, historic preservation, art, and Montana history. OPI renewal credits are available to teachers.

Additional history conference information is available by contacting Education Officer Linda Wruck, lwruck@mt.gov or 406-444-4794.

Among the new faces at the Society is **Chris Carson**, who joined the staff March 6 as the Society's first information technology (IT) network systems administrator. Chris has worked for state government in the IT field for almost fourteen years, the last eight at the Department of Revenue. In addition, two new interns from Carroll College have temporarily joined the Society's staff. **Amy Krattiger** and **Paige Kelley** are working in publications and in the Research Center, respectively.

Acquisitions

The Montana Historical Society is grateful to the organizations, businesses, and individuals who donated works of art, artifacts, archival materials, books, education materials, and photographs in 2005. [See a full list of our 2005 donors.](#)

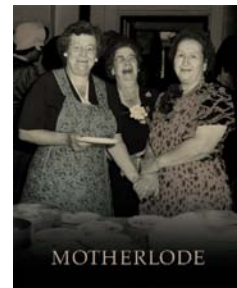
The Society continues to welcome donations and encourages anyone interested in donating items to contact the following individuals: Brian Shovers, library (406-444-1988, bshovers@mt.gov); Jodie Foley, archives (406-444-6779, jofoley@mt.gov); Lory Morrow, photograph archives (406-444-4714, lmorrow@mt.gov); Kirby Lambert, art (406-444-4711, klambert@mt.gov); and George Oberst, three-dimensional objects (406-444-0359, goberst@mt.gov).

Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all of the programs are **free, open to the public, and held 6:30 p.m.** at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts.

April 1, 12:30 p.m.: **Motherlode: Legacies of Women's Lives and Labors in Butte, Montana.** Join Janet Finn and Ellen Crain for a talk on the women of Butte, a book signing, and refreshments.

June 25, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: **Original Governor's Mansion Secret Garden Tour,** 304 N. Ewing, Helena. Tickets (\$10 in advance and \$12 on tour day) are available at the Society or the Original Governor's Mansion.



Thursday Night Lectures

April 6: **A Kick in the Ash: 9,800 Years of Prehistory in Montana's Blackfoot Valley.** Montana Department of Transportation Archeologist Steve Platt will talk about a northern Powell County archeological site where deposits date back at least 9,800 years. The site offers a glimpse of human occupation both immediately before and after a volcanic eruption that created a major ashfall in western Montana.

April 13: **Unique and Handsome: Cass Gilbert's Designs for the Montana Club.** Speaker Patty Dean examined blueprints, drawings, specifications, and photographs in the Cass Gilbert Papers and the Montana Club Papers at the Montana Historical Society to uncover some intriguing similarities between Gilbert's designs for the Montana Club and the 1905 Minnesota State Capitol.

April 20: **Cowboys, Miners, and War Brides: Hear the Stories of Montanans from All Walks of Life.** State Archivist Jodie Foley will share oral histories collected over the past thirty years. Learn how you can gain access to our vast collection of first-person accounts of life in Montana.

April 27: **Pages in History Book Forum.** A discussion of D'Arcy McNickle's book, *The Surrounded*, will be facilitated by Helena High School teacher, Joe Anderson.

May 4: **Without Fires for Days: Archaeology of the Donner Family Camp.** Assistant Professor Kelly Dixon from the University of Montana will talk about the Donner family who was stranded and snowbound for over four months in the eastern Sierras during the winter of 1846-47. Her talk is based on recent archeological field and lab research that has focused on the ill-fated Donner Party's encampments.

May 11: **Preserving Warmth in an Older Home or Office Building.** The Montana Historical Society's Historic Architecture Specialist Pete Brown will talk about air infiltration of historic buildings during the heating months. Pete will bring a model of a historic window retrofitted with modern weather stripping as well as information on R-values of different building materials. The information will build on his master's thesis and experience as the owner of an old home.

May 18: **To Ornament the City We Love: Helena's Pioneer Jewish Landmarks.** The Montana Historical Society's Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler will talk about Helena's early Jewish community and two of its significant historic landmarks: the Temple Emanu El, the first Jewish synagogue between St. Paul and Portland, and the Home of Peace Cemetery, Montana's oldest Jewish Cemetery and the oldest, active cemetery in Helena.

May 25: **Pages in History Book Forum.** A discussion of Ellen Baumler's book, *Beyond Spirit Tailings*, will be facilitated by Ellen!

June 8: Your Most Trustworthy Attendants: Thomas Jefferson's Legacy and the Documentation of Montana's Heritage. Montana Historical Society Research Historian Rich Aarstad will look at how Jefferson's instructions to Lewis influenced the way the captains documented the expedition and State Archivist Jodie Foley will discuss several later Montana expeditions and their impact on the creation of Montana.

June 22: The Art of Mural Scene Painting. Artist Joe LaFontaine has created some of the murals in the Society's soon-to-open exhibit, *Neither Empty Nor Unknown*. Come see and learn about the techniques involved with using large expanses of wall space as a canvas.

Conferences and Workshops

June 19-20: Montana Heritage Project Summer Conference on Place-Based Learning, Butte. Contact Marcella Sherfy, 406-444-1759 or msherfy@mt.gov for information.

June 24-26: State Historic Preservation Office and Montana Preservation Alliance Preservation Workshop, Deer Lodge. Contact Rolene Schliesman, 406-444-7742 or rschliesman@mt.gov for information.

June 26-28: Montana Mosaic: 20th-Century People and Events Teacher Institute, Carroll College, Helena. Contact Linda Wruck at 406-444-4794 or lwruck@mt.gov for information.

September 28-30: "Our Place in the West: Views from the Yellowstone River Valley," the Thirty-third Annual History Conference, Billings. Contact Linda Wruck at 406-444-4794 or lwruck@mt.gov for information.

Society on the Road

April 20, 7:00 p.m.: Conveniences Sorely Needed. MHS Press author Jon Axline will deliver an illustrated talk on Montana's historic bridges at the Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Ave North

April 26, 7:00 p.m.: Beyond Spirit Tailings. Research Historian Ellen Baumler will share ghost stories from her book at the Glacier County Library, 21 First Ave SE in Cut Bank, Cut Bank

Hours

Montana's Museum

Through April 30: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m.

May 1-September 30: Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m.

Closed holidays. \$5.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$12.00 per family.

Museum Store

Through April 30: Tuesdays-Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturdays, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

May 1-September 30: Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Closed holidays. No admission fee.

Research Center

Library and Archives: Tuesdays-Fridays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holiday weekends. No admission fee.

Photograph Archives: Tuesdays-Fridays, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Capitol Guided Tours

Through April 30: Saturdays only, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour; last tour begins at 1:00 p.m.

May 1-September 30: Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; last tour begins at 2:00 p.m. Sundays, 12:00-4:00 p.m.; last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.

Closed holidays. Self-guided tour brochures available at the security desk on the first floor upon request. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

Original Governor's Mansion

Through April 30: Saturdays only, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

May 1-September 30: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour; last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.

Closed holidays. \$4 per adult, \$1 per student, \$10 per family. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.